GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3667
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
MODIFICATION OF GUN
Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

referring to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3692, dated August 21, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Bi-Modular Charge System supplied by M/s. Somchem of South Africa has been tested and found technically acceptable for the existing 155 mm FH 77B guns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bi-Modular Charge System supplied by Somchem could be used with the existing fleet of 155 mm FH77B guns without any modifications;

(d) if not, whether the required modifications to these guns have been carried out;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is aware that the UK Government has already cancelled the contract with M/s. Somchem for Bi-Modular Charge System, as it was found defective and unsuitable for their Filed Howitzers; and

(g) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (g): User Trials of Bi-Modular Charge System (BMCS) supplied by M/s Somchem of South Africa were carried out from June-August, 1998 and the BMCS was found technically acceptable for the existing 155mm / 39 calibre FH 77B guns, after carrying out a minor modification to the loading tray of the gun. For carrying out the modification, a modification kit is required. Modification kits have been received and Joint Receipt Inspection is to be carried out. The Government is not aware whether the UK Government has cancelled a contract with M/s Somchem for the same system.